PREFATORY NOTE

In Memoriam

THE REV. JAMES L. AINSLIE, B.D., PH.D.

THIS is the twelfth volume of *Records* issued by the Scottish Church History Society. According to custom the Prefatory Note should have been written by Dr. James Ainslie, President of the Society for the Triennium 1954-56. By reason of his lamented death, however, the Society has been deprived of a last word from a President greatly esteemed.

The Society comprises in its membership both experts and specialists in historical study and also ministers and laymen interested in the ecclesiastical history of Scotland. Dr. Ainslie was a parish minister who had made extensive studies in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries particularly on the topic of ministerial order. This he embodied in his book, published in 1940, entitled *The Doctrine of Ministerial Order in the Reformed Churches in the 16th and 17th centuries.*

After he retired from his parish of Kirkfieldbank, near Lanark, he went to live at Bowden in the Border country. From there he came to the meetings of the Society in Edinburgh with unfailing regularity through all vicissitudes of weather. A man of strong convictions, he was gentle and kindly in manner and courteous of speech. He has been much missed by the Society which has lost in him one of its most devoted members.

THOMAS MAXWELL, *Hon. Secretary.*

It is fitting once more to make acknowledgment of the help given by the Carnegie Trust towards the publication of the *Records*. The Society is deeply grateful to the Trust and in particular to the Secretary, Mr. T. A. F. Noble, M.B.E., M.A., who has continued the kindly helpfulness of his predecessor, Dr. J. R. Peddie, now retired.

T. M.